

# Berean Baptist Church<sup>1</sup>

1317 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Monroe, LA

**Parent: None**

**Founder: Southern Baptist Convention**

**Year: 1987**

**Longest Pastorate: Dr. Samuel Green (1987-- ) 23 years**

**Number of Pastors: 1987-2014: 2**

Berean Baptist Church was founded by the combined efforts of the Dr. Samuel A. Green, and Dr. Jerry Edmondson.<sup>2</sup> was the director of missions for the Northeast and Morehouse Baptist Associations.

The Berean Baptist Church is the first predominately Black Southern Baptist Church in Northeast LA. The first organized worship service was held in the community room of the Louis Locke Housing Project on February 28, 1987 with four families in attendance.

The name and philosophy of the church were taken from Acts 17:10-12. The Berean Christians were considered noble because they received the word of God with all eagerness and searched the scriptures daily. Many believed after they discovered what they heard, agreed with what the bible said. Evangelism through outreach and discipleship are key emphasis of the church.

The church temporarily moved from Louis Locke to Temple Baptist Church Fellowship Hall to 3606 Lee Avenue. In October of 1989, the church moved to its permanent address, 1317 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Monroe, LA.

Dr. Samuel A. Green was elected pastor of the founding congregation.

On July 26, 1995 the church officially incorporated with the official name of Berean Baptist Church. It established a governing board of no less than 11 trustees who are elected annually with the pastor being one of the 11.<sup>3</sup> The membership chooses its trustees. The registered agents for the church were Samuel A. Green and Louis Smith. The first members of the church board of trustees were: Samuel A. Green, president; Jeffery Williams, vice-president; Gloria

West Hall, secretary; Louis Smith, treasurer; Bonnie King, John Babineaux, Alfred Mack, Nancy Mack, Jeanie Hunter and Richard



**Dr. Samuel Green**

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<sup>1</sup> *First black Southern Baptist Church in Monroe, La. Berean Baptist is the first Southern Baptist Congregation in Monroe.* It was established by the Convention. Green, a seminary graduate from Africa was appointed to begin the congregation for the SBC.

<sup>2</sup> *Handwritten notes of Dr. Samuel Green, March 2005*

<sup>3</sup> **Articles of Incorporation of the Berean Baptist Church**, July 26, 1995. Ouachita Parish Clerk of Court, Monroe, La. , Page 817, File # 1157016

Savage. When the incorporation document was executed Crystal Lowery and John Davis signed as witnesses.<sup>4</sup>

In 2010 the church elected Rev. Carl L. Gipson, pastor.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> **IBID**, p. 821

<sup>5</sup> *Notes of the Reverend Samuel Green*, former pastor of the Berean Baptist Church, August 27, 2012